



Security Council

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21 June 2017

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Letter dated 14 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 June 2017 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Ibrahim A!-Jaafari, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Sahib Marzooq
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 14 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to convey to you the wish of the Government of Iraq that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) should be extended for a further period of one year through 31 July 2018, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the conditions set out in Security Council resolution 1770 (2007). The Government of Iraq would also like the Mission to continue to provide assistance and advice, upon the request of the Government.

The Government of Iraq reaffirms the importance of the role of the United Nations, and of UNAMI in particular, in providing advice, support and assistance to the Iraqi people and the Government pursuant to the mandate set out in resolution 1770 (2007), particularly given that Iraqi security forces are about to rid Iraq of the terrorist gangs of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and to wipe them out once and for all.

As the Government of Iraq prepares for the post-ISIL period, it is quite clear that the Mission can help Iraq address the challenges it currently faces, namely, the reconstruction of liberated areas, ensuring the return of displaced persons, strengthening human rights, promoting the rule of law, execution of planning programmes, building capacity and national reconciliation. You are no doubt aware that the extremely serious humanitarian crisis caused by acts of terrorism has displaced millions of Iraqis, who were forced to leave the areas in which they resided, and that such acts have also destroyed the infrastructure of a number of cities. The people and Government of Iraq are therefore in dire need of the assistance and advice of UNAMI in ensuring a decent life for all Iraqis.

(Signed) Ibrahim Al-Jaafari
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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**General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus****Security Council
Seventy-second year****Letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instruction from my Government, I transmit herewith two documents detailing the infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I) and the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships (see annex II) during the month of May 2017. It should also be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal airport of Tympou.

Furthermore, I wish to inform you that the occupation regime illegally issued four notices to airmen relating to exercises conducted by the Turkish Air Force in May 2017.

In addition, more recently, the occupation regime has started interfering with radio frequencies, including distress and emergency frequencies, of the Republic of Cyprus, thus obstructing the smooth operation of the NAVTEX service that delivers navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent maritime safety information, to ships.

The actions of Turkey are clearly aimed at undermining the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, bolstering the continuing de facto division and upgrading the secessionist entity's status, by claiming a purported airspace over the occupied territory of the Republic. In addition, Turkey continues to systematically harass civilian and military aircraft within the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) via radio calls. Meanwhile, Nicosia FIR infringements and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus continue unabated. The policy of Turkey of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations puts the safety of international civil aviation at risk, has a negative impact on the stability of the region and causes difficulties for air traffic over Cyprus.

It should further be underlined that the continuation of the illegal actions of Turkey creates tension during a critical period for the successful outcome of the ongoing negotiation process for a peaceful comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.



On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest against the continuing infringements of international air traffic regulations and the violations of the national airspace and the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey and appeal for their immediate cessation. The Republic of Cyprus reiterates, in this respect, its call for adherence to the principle of sovereignty and non-interference enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kornelios Korneliou

Annex I to the letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**Airborne violations**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
2 May	1820-2127	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia area control centre (ACC).
3 May	1059-1400	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1106-1125	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1353-1417	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1700-1718	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
4 May	0848-0905	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0939-1110	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1057-1112	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1121-1221	Two Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
5 May	1705-1750	One Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
7 May	1524-1608	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
8 May	1127-1300	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1528-1539	Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1830-1852	One PC-12 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
9 May	1020-1130	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
10 May	1135-1233	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1310-1330	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
11 May	1047-1219	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1052-1137	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
15 May	1355-1455	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
16 May	0932-1110	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1405-1438	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1410-1436	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1602-1620	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1800-1822	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	2017-2032	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
17 May	1034-1051	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1237-1252	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
19 May	0804-0816	One C-130 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
23 May	1408-1532	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
	1723-1751	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
24 May	0949-0955	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter and one UH-1 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1035-1215	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1107-1201	Two F-16 and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1130-1204	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
25 May	1020-1138	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1228-1335	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter and one UH-1 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1258-1320	One PC-12 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1603-1702	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
	1808-1830	One PC-12 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
28 May	0635-0743	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
29 May	1022-1319	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1051-1200	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1245-1532	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1437-1523	Two F-16 and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1502-1534	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
30 May	1851-2027	Two Cougar Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
31 May	1000-1230	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1605-1855	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	2300-2318	One Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit and without contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
1 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
1-2 May	One P-333 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
4-5 May	One P-336 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
6-8 May	One P-336 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
9-10 May	One P-336 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
10-11 May	One P-337 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
11-12 May	One P-337 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
12-13 May	One P-337 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
16 May	One A-1600 Turkish vehicle-carrier vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta.
17-18 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
18-19 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
19-20 May	One Kilic Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
20-21 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Nature of violation</i>
21-22 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
22-23 May	One Kilic Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
23-24 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
24 May	One P-1204 Turkish vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Keryneia.
24-25 May	One P-338 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
26-27 May	One P-337 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
27-29 May	One P-337 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.
29-31 May	One P-337 Turkish missile vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Famagusta while participating in a naval operation of the occupation forces.

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Identical letters dated 19 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform Security Council members of the following:

The United States of America and its illegitimate coalition revealed their true nature and the despicable goal that they are striving to achieve in Syria when, on 18 June 2017, they committed yet another crime by deliberately shooting down a Syrian aircraft that was carrying out its mission of combating the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) organization in Syrian territory.

It is shameful for the United States to justify its heinous action by disseminating barefaced lies in official statements that are as far removed from the truth as can be. Contrary to what the Americans have claimed, the Syrian warplane crashed in an area near Rusafah, which is controlled by ISIL, and the Syrian pilot was seen parachuting to the ground in territory controlled by ISIL.

This disgraceful American military aggression confirms beyond any doubt the true position of the United States, which is to support terrorism and impact on the capacity of the Syrian army, which, along with its allies, is the only effective force that is exercising its legitimate right to combat terrorism throughout the country. This aggression cannot be viewed in isolation from the crimes that the United States and its coalition have committed against the Syrian Arab Army and its allies in the Tanf area, or the unjustified attacks the coalition has carried out against innocent civilians in northern Raqqah and other areas. Those attacks have killed hundreds of innocent civilians and displaced more than 120,000 of the inhabitants of Raqqah, who fled their homes because the American coalition has been indiscriminately bombarding innocent civilians in Raqqah and other Syrian cities.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the above-mentioned aggression comes at a time when the Syrian Arab Army and its allies are making clear progress in the war against ISIL, which is being routed along several fronts in the Syrian desert. The American aggression also exposes the political and military intentions of the United States and its illegitimate coalition, and the evil intentions of that coalition, which is directing and exploiting terrorism in order to achieve its goal of advancing the Western project in the region.

The Syrian Arab Republic warns of the repercussions of that criminal act for counter-terrorism efforts. Such aggressions will not deter Syria and, in particular, its brave army from continuing the war against ISIL and the Nusrah Front, and their



affiliated terrorist organizations, and from restoring the control of the Syrian State over its entire territory.

Syria condemns this aggression and calls on the Security Council to break its silence and also condemn such cowardly and reckless military actions, particularly as they are being carried out by an illegitimate coalition, some of the members of which are permanent and non-permanent Council members. The blatant American aggression must be considered a violation of Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, the sovereignty and independence of the Syrian Arab Republic, international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Restoring security and stability to Syria and the region, and countering terrorism requires a good-faith effort by the international community to put an end to the Syrian crisis and thwart any effort aimed at prolonging and exploiting the crisis.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Louay **Falouh**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

- Mr. Rex Tillerson, the Secretary of State of the United States, during his address before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on 14 June 2017, stated that the policy of the United States towards Iran was “to work towards support of those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that Government”, and added, “those elements are there, certainly as we know”.
- This statement is a brazen interventionist plan that runs counter to every norm and principle of international law, as well as the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and constitutes unacceptable behaviour in international relations.
- This statement is also a flagrant violation of the Algiers Accords of 1981 and other treaties to which the United States is a party. According to the Algiers Accords, “the United States pledges that it is and from now on will be the policy of the United States not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran’s internal affairs”.
- Interestingly, Mr. Tillerson’s statement coincides with the release of newly declassified documents that further clarify how United States agencies were behind the overthrow of Mohammad Mossadegh, the popular and democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran, on 19 August 1953. That coup, backed by the Central Intelligence Agency, abruptly interrupted the path of Iran towards independence, democracy and development and imposed and upheld a 25-year long dictatorship that left deep scars on Iranian society and its collective conscience.
- It also came weeks after vibrant presidential and local elections in Iran, in which more than 71 per cent of the Iranian people participated. The people of Iran have repeatedly proven that they are the ones to decide their own destiny and thus attempts by the United States to interfere in Iranian domestic affairs will be doomed to failure. They have learned how to stand strong and independent, as demonstrated in the Islamic Revolution of 1979.
- The Iranian Government expects that all States will condemn such grotesque policy statements and advise the Government of the United States to act



responsibly and to adhere to the principles of the Charter and international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

**Security Council**

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France: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2295 (2016), 2253 (2015), and 2227 (2015),

Recalling its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Affirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger,

Expressing its continued concern over the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region, as well as the serious challenges posed by transnational organized crime in the Sahel region, including arms and drug trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and underscoring the responsibility of the countries in the region in addressing these threats and challenges,

Recalling the listing of MUJAO, the Organisation of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar Eddine and its leader Iyad Ag Ghali, and Al Mourabitoun on the Al-Qaida sanctions list established by the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, reiterating its readiness, under the above-mentioned regime, to sanction further individuals, groups, undertakings and entities who are associated with Al-Qaida and other listed entities and individuals, and taking note of the merger of AQIM, Al Mourabitoun and Ansar Eddine terrorist groups into Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims), as announced by Iyad Ag Ghali on 2 March 2017,

Recalling that any individual, group, undertaking or entity associated with ISIL or Al-Qaida is eligible for inclusion in the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List under the designation criteria set forth in resolution 2253 (2015) and that means of financing or support include but are not limited to the use of proceeds of crime, including the illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and their precursors,

Recognizing the determination and ownership of the Governments of the Group of Five for the Sahel States (G5 Sahel) established on 19 December 2014 in Nouakchott and comprising Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, to address the impact of terrorism and transnational organized crime, including through the conduct of cross-border joint military counter-terrorist operations, welcoming the efforts of the French forces to support these operations, and also welcoming the decision of the States of the Sahel and Sahara to establish a new counter-terrorist center with its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt,



Taking note of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) resolution of 6 February 2017, which decided to set up a G5 Sahel joint force (*Force conjointe du G5 Sahel* — FC-G5S), of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security communiqué of 13 April 2017, which endorsed the strategic concept of operations and authorized the deployment of the FC-G5S, and of the United Nations Secretary-General's letter of 15 May 2017 transmitting the AU PSC communiqué to the members of the Council,

Underlining the primary responsibility of the G5 Sahel States to ensure the protection of civilians in their respective territories in accordance with their obligations under international law, and *underlining* the need for the operations of the FC-G5S to be conducted in compliance full with international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, as applicable and for the FC-G5S to take active steps to minimize the risk of harm to civilians in all areas of operation,

Recalling the United Nations Zero Tolerance Policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and *acknowledging* the efforts carried out by the Secretary-General in this regard,

Acknowledging the impact of the situation in Mali on the regional peace and security in the Sahel, West Africa and North African region, and *underlining* that all efforts to counter-terrorism in Mali and in the Sahel region should be pursued with the view to support the full and effective implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali (the "Agreement"),

Recognizing the recent progress achieved for the implementation of the Agreement, while *expressing* its deep concern over the persistent delays for the full implementation of the Agreement two years after it was concluded, and *urging* the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to take urgent and concrete action to fully and sincerely deliver on their obligations under the Agreement without further delay,

Reiterating its serious concern at the continuing lack of key capabilities for MINUSMA, and *urging* Member States to provide the necessary capacities, including troops and enablers, in order for MINUSMA to fulfil its mandate, pursuant to resolution 2295 (2016),

Underlining that FC-G5S efforts to counter the activities of terrorist groups and other organized criminal groups will contribute to create a more secure environment in the Sahel region, and thus facilitate the fulfilment by MINUSMA of its mandate to stabilize Mali,

Calling for the rapid and effective implementation, in consultation with Member States of the Sahel region and bilateral partners and multilateral organisations, of regional strategies encompassing security, governance, development, human rights and humanitarian issues such as the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel,

Expressing its support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Africa and the Sahel, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, and for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), in their efforts to implement the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel,

Welcoming the African Union Nouakchott process on the enhancement of the security cooperation and the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture in the Sahel and Sahara region (APSA), as well as steps taken by the African Union to operationalize the African Standby Force,

Commending the role of the European Union (EU) Missions to provide training and strategic advice to national security forces in the Sahel region, including the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali), the EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali) and the EU Capacity Building Mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger), and also *commending* the contribution of bilateral and other multilateral partners to strengthen security capacities in the Sahel region,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Mali of 6 June 2017 (S/2017/478), including his recommendation to the Security Council to positively consider the request of the G5 Sahel States, endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 13 April 2017, to adopt a resolution that approves the deployment of the FC-G5S,

Recalling that the situation in Mali constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and that the activities in Mali and in the Sahel region of terrorist organizations constitute a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond,

1. *Welcomes* the deployment of the FC-G5S throughout the territories of its contributing countries, with up to 5,000 military and police personnel, with a view to restoring peace and security in the Sahel region;

2. *Welcomes* the strategic concept of operations of the FC-G5S, addressed by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council in his letter dated 15 May 2017, including its provisions related to humanitarian liaison, protection of civilians, gender, conduct and discipline;

3. *Emphasizes* the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognized in resolution 1325 (2000), and *underlines* that a gender perspective should be taken into account in implementing all aspects of the strategic concept of operations of the FC-G5S;

4. *Underlines* the need for the G5 Sahel States to take into account the association of children with terrorist and transnational organized criminal groups to protect and consider as victims children who have been released or otherwise separated from those groups and to pay particular attention to the protection, release and reintegration of all children associated with those groups;

5. *Urges* the FC-G5S, MINUSMA and the French forces to ensure adequate coordination and exchange of information, through relevant mechanisms, of their operations, within their respective mandates, and *reiterates* in this regard its request to the Secretary-General to enhance cooperation between MINUSMA and the G5 Sahel Member States through provision of relevant intelligence and liaison officers from the G5 Sahel Member States to MINUSMA;

6. *Recalls* that the G5 Sahel States have the responsibility to provide the FC-G5S with adequate resources, *urges* the G5 Sahel States to continue efforts towards the sustainable, viable and effective operationalization of the FC-G5S, and *welcomes* the commitment of the European Union to provide financial support to the FC-G5S worth of 50 million euros, *encourages* further support from bilateral and multilateral partners including through the provision of adequate logistical, operational and financial assistance to the FC-G5S, as appropriate, and *encourages* bilateral and multilateral partners to expeditiously convene a planning conference to ensure coordination of donor assistance efforts to the FC-G5S;

7. *Requests* the Secretary General, in close coordination with the G5 Sahel States and the African Union, to report to the Security Council on the activities of the FC-G5S, including on its operationalization, on challenges encountered and possible measures for further consideration, as well as on ways to mitigate any adverse impact of its military operations on the civilian population, including on

women and children, with an oral update within 2 months of the adoption of this resolution, with a written report within 4 months of the adoption of this resolution, and thereafter to include these elements in regular reporting by UNOCA and UNOWAS;

8. *Expresses* its intent to review the deployment of the FC-G5S 4 months after the adoption of this resolution;

9. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
23 June 2017
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-second year

**Identical letters dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent
Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letter 548/2017 dated 16 March 2017 (A/71/1846-S/2017/228), in which we informed you of the grave threats being made by Israel against the people, infrastructure and armed forces of Lebanon, I should like to inform you of the following:

- Israel has been conducting a systematic slander campaign against the efforts being made by Lebanon, in conjunction with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to maintain stability in southern Lebanon and to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). Most recently, Israel has put forward false claims about the presence of armed fighters and weapons in villages in southern Lebanon. Those claims have been disproven by daily patrols conducted by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army, and by fixed observer positions throughout the South Litani Sector, which have not documented any of the activities or movements alleged by Israel.
- It is clear that these false Israeli claims are designed to provide cover for hostile acts and ongoing provocations being committed by Israel against Lebanese civilians and units of UNIFIL, Observer Group Lebanon and the Lebanese Army. We have been documenting Israel's continuing violations of resolution 1701 (2006) in letters to the Security Council and the Secretary-General ever since that resolution was adopted. The annexed table shows that there were 64 air violations, 80 sea violations and 31 ground violations committed by Israel during the month of May 2017 alone. That is not to mention Israel's ongoing occupation of northern Ghajar and surrounding areas, in flagrant violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and the sovereignty of Lebanon, as well as Israel's occupation of the Shab'a Farms and the Kafr Shuba hills. Israel also persists in encroaching on the daily lives, livelihoods and security of Lebanese civilians with surveillance towers and listening devices all along the southern border. These reprehensible practices demonstrate yet again Israel's hostile intentions towards Lebanon, and are proof not only of its violation of resolution 1701 (2006), but of its lack of regard for the Charter of



the United Nations and the principles of international law and international humanitarian law.

- Lebanon believes that is imperative to condemn in the strongest terms and without delay the escalating threats made by Israel. Those threats should subsequently be highlighted in the periodic reports on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and categorically denounced, and Israel should be called on to carry out all its obligations under that resolution, because Israel's violations threaten to undermine the tranquillity that Lebanon strives so hard to maintain along its southern border, and present a clear threat to security and peace in the region and, consequently, throughout the world.
- The Lebanese Government reiterates that it has implemented all of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) from the moment that the resolution was adopted. The Government once again calls on the international community to put pressure on Israel and compel it to implement fully that resolution.

I ask you to take every measure necessary to deter Israel from continuing to make grave threats against the security of my country and the safety of its people and civil and official institutions, and from committing serious violations of my country's sovereignty, and to compel Israel to implement all the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nawaf Salam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during May 2017

The Israeli enemy committed 175 violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in the month of May, including 64 air violations, 80 sea violations and 31 land violations.

<i>Air violations</i>				<i>Sea violations</i>	<i>Land violations</i>			<i>Overall total</i>	<i>Previous month's violations</i>
<i>Military jet</i>	<i>Reconnaissance</i>	<i>Helicopter</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Military acts of aggression</i>	<i>Field violations</i>	<i>Total</i>		
				Violation of Lebanese territorial waters, directing of searchlights, release of charges, sounding warning sirens, broadcasting over loudspeakers, directing foul language and threats at fishermen, releasing divers into Lebanese territorial waters		Pointing of tank cannons at Lebanese territory, pointing of firearms at Observer Group Lebanon, attempted abduction of a Lebanese shepherd and taking his livestock into the occupied Shab'a Farms, pointing cameras, lighting fires inside occupied territory that spread into Lebanese territory, deployments, building roads, explosions heard from inside the occupied Shab'a Farms			
10	53	1	64	80	—	31	31	175	103



Security Council

Distr.: General
22 June 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter from Riad Hijab, Head Coordinator of the High Negotiations Committee, dated 8 June 2017 (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter Wilson
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On behalf of the High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, it is with profound concern that I draw your attention to the latest military escalation by the Assad regime and its Iranian allies and their sectarian militias in Dar'a in southern Syria.

Since the start of June, Syrian regime forces, supported by Iranian militias operating under air cover provided by the regime's allies, have intensified their indiscriminate attacks against civilians throughout Syria, with Dar'a governorate bearing the brunt of those attacks. Information documented by activists on the ground indicates that, in the past five days alone, the Assad regime has dropped at least 147 barrel bombs, conducted 65 air raids and fired 150 artillery shells and 160 "elephant" rockets in Dar'a and its countryside. In its most recent attack against civilians, the regime, with the support of its allies, continued to implement its military strategy with impunity. In fact, at the end of last week, additional forces belonging to Hizbullah and other Iranian-supported militias joined regime forces in Manshiyah and Dar'a al-Balad, in order to support the attack.

According to documented information provided by the Syrian Network for Human Rights, dozens of civilians have been killed as a result of the regime's escalation. On 1 June, two explosive charges planted by the regime killed at least 16 persons on the Kafr Shams-Aqraba road, Dar'a governorate. On that same day, regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the Dar'a refugee camp, killing civilians, including children. On 5 June, air strikes carried out by the regime and its allies on the town of Tafas, Dar'a governorate, killed 12 persons, including three children. On 4 June, regime warplanes killed six civilians in various governorates of Syria, including two women in Ghariyah al-Gharbiyah town, Dar'a governorate.

The indiscriminate violence being committed by the regime in Dar'a and other parts of Syria not only violates numerous Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016), but also threatens the credibility of international efforts to halt the violence, including in the recently proposed de-escalation zones. Moreover, the attack against Dar'a raises serious questions as to the negative role played by Iran in relation to the de-escalation zones agreement. It is clear that the regime will, without hesitation, continue its efforts to impose a military solution and impede international efforts in support of the political process unless the de-escalation zones are implemented in an impartial and credible manner, and sanctions are put in place that can be imposed on the regime and its allies should they violate agreement.

The High Negotiations Committee of the Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces therefore calls on the Security Council to:

- Establish an impartial mechanism to monitor de-escalation zones across Syria. The United Nations must play a prominent role in monitoring implementation of the agreement, because the violators thereof cannot be trusted to monitor it;
- Deter future indiscriminate attacks against civilians by imposing credible sanctions against the perpetrators thereof;

- Develop options to ensure immediate accountability for violations of international law, including the establishment of a special tribunal within the framework of the General Assembly, as such tribunals have proven their credibility, in order to work towards justice and accountability in Syria.

The regime has repeatedly proven that it will not abandon its military strategies and participate seriously in negotiations unless it is forced to do so. We look to the members of the Security Council and the General Assembly, individually and collectively, to demonstrate the leadership required for ensuring a credible political process. You can accomplish this by, first of all, protecting civilians on the ground and by bringing your influence to bear on the regime and its allies in the political discussions at Geneva. The Syrian people are counting on you to protect their aspirations for the Syria of the future.

(Signed) **Riad Hijab**
General Coordinator
High Negotiations Committee
of the Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 June 2017

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict**

**Security Council
Seventy-second year**

**Letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of
Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith for your attention the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the flagrant violation of the ceasefire regime by the Azerbaijani armed forces along the line of contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan, in which reference is made to the statement of 18 May 2017 issued by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Zohrab Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

17 June 2017

We express our deepest condolences to the relatives and fellow servicemen of soldiers who fell today and yesterday as a result of the flagrant violation of the ceasefire by the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the line of contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan.

In their last statement, the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe condemned the ceasefire violations, identifying Azerbaijan as the first to open fire. It is with such provocations that Baku has reacted to this targeted statement, thus demonstrating its complete disrespect.

On the eve of the visit by the Co-Chairs, the high leadership of Azerbaijan is challenging the international community, first and foremost the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, by holding large-scale military drills without the relevant notification required under international commitments, continuously violating the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, as well as taking new steps aimed at the escalation of the situation. The absence of an adequate response could be perceived by Azerbaijan as encouragement for new adventurism.

It is obvious that Baku has failed to move the peaceful settlement process through its desired path and is now trying to create the illusion of gaining an advantage on the frontline, which is also doomed to fail and is fraught with unpredictable consequences, primarily for the side initiating the escalation of the situation.

**S/2017/
526**

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**Security Council**

Distr.: General
20 June 2017

Original: English

Identical letters dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to alert you once again to the dangerous and destabilizing actions of the Iranian proxy, Hizbullah, in our region.

Hizbullah, an internationally designated terrorist organization, continues unabated to strengthen its military infrastructure in the villages of southern Lebanon, in clear violation of Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004). Evidence of Hizbullah's unremitting violations mounts by the day and cannot be overlooked.

Over the past few months, Hizbullah has established observation posts near the Blue Line, mainly in the western section of the region (see annex I for the exact coordinates of the posts and annex II for a photograph of a post).

These posts were erected under the guise of an agricultural non-governmental organization known as "Green without Borders", the activities of which are defined and at times funded by Hizbullah.

The well-documented proof of Hizbullah's dangerous provocation verifies that Hizbullah conducts reconnaissance activity near the Blue Line and disguises it as civilian activity, in clear violation of resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004).

Last April, a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrol was denied access by a group of locals to an observation post flying the "Green without Borders" flag.

Such obstructions to the operations of UNIFIL in the area are unacceptable. These impediments prevent UNIFIL from fully executing its mandate to monitor the implementation of Security Council resolutions and maintain stability in the area.

Hizbullah's continued military build-up and destabilizing activities in southern Lebanon have serious repercussions for both regional stability and the ability of the Lebanese Government to effectively control its country.

The international community cannot continue to turn a blind eye to Hizbullah's flagrant violations of resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004).

I call upon the Security Council to demand that the Government of Lebanon dismantle these observation posts immediately and prevent any future activity of Hizbullah and its affiliates in southern Lebanon, particularly near the Blue Line. It is imperative that the Council send a strong message to the Government of Lebanon



and demand that it fully implement resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004), not only in words, but also in clear and concrete actions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

**Annex I to the identical letters dated 20 June 2017 from the
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

Coordinates of the observation posts

The following are coordinates of the Hizbullah observation posts as displayed
on the map:

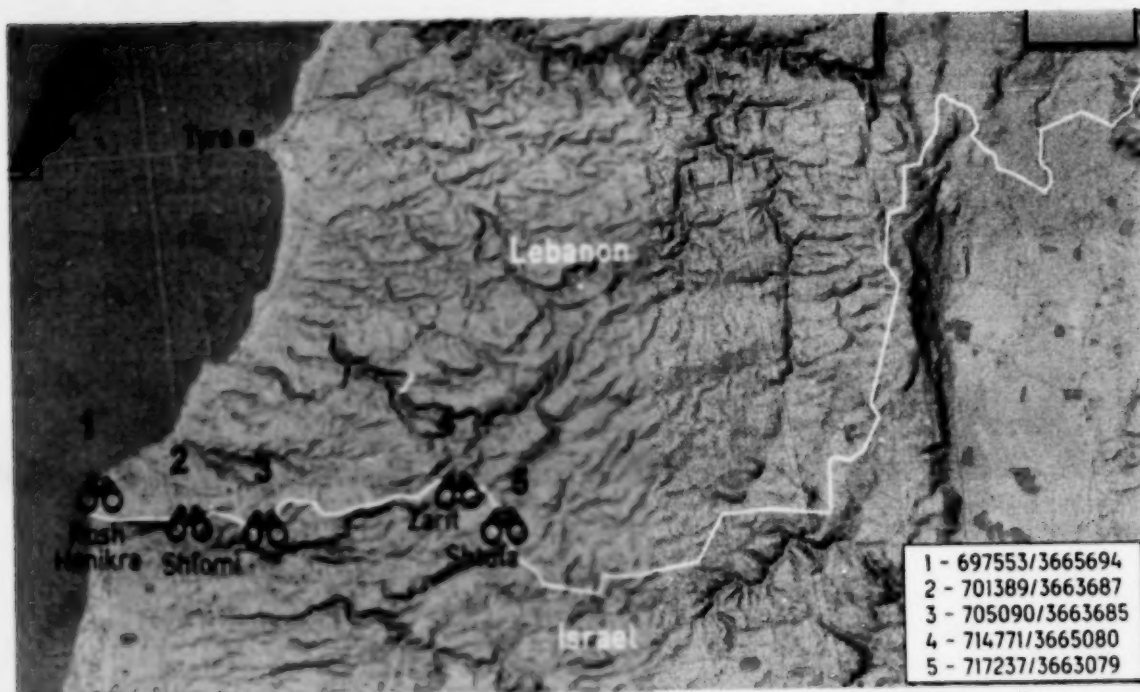
697553/3665694

701389/3663687

705090/3553685

714771/3665080

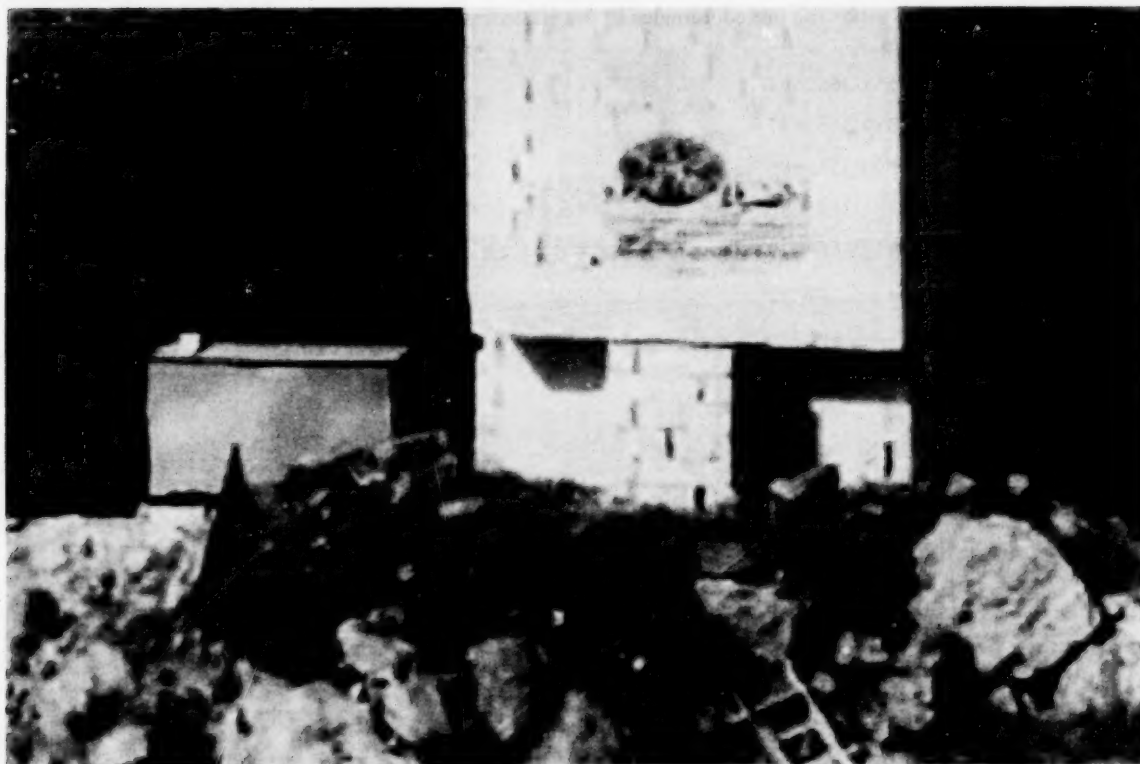
717237/3663079



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**Annex II to the identical letters dated 20 June 2017 from the
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

Photograph of a Hizbullah observation post



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**Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 June 2017

Original: English

**Letter dated 16 June 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed
to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), which was established by the Security Council in its resolution 2009 (2011). The mandate of UNSMIL has since been extended and modified in resolutions 2040 (2012), 2095 (2013), 2144 (2014), 2208 (2015), 2213 (2015), 2273 (2016), 2291 (2016) and, most recently, 2323 (2016), by which it was extended until 15 September 2017.

Following the usual consultations, I wish to inform you of my intention to appoint Mr. Ghassan Salamé (Lebanon) as my Special Representative for Libya and Head of UNSMIL. He succeeds Mr. Martin Kobler (Germany), who has served as Special Representative since 1 November 2015. I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Kobler for his dedication and effective leadership of UNSMIL.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 June 2017

Original: English

**Letter dated 20 June 2017 from the President of the
Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 16 June 2017 (S/2017/527) concerning your intention to appoint Mr. Ghassan Salamé (Lebanon) as Special Representative for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(Signed) Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz
President of the Security Council



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 June 2017

Original: English

France: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the DRC as well as all States in the region and *emphasizing* the need to respect fully the principles of non-interference, good neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of the DRC for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its populations with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law, including protection from crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Taking note of the interim report (S/2016/1102) of the Group of Experts on the DRC ("the Group of Experts") established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) and extended pursuant to resolutions 1807 (2008), 1857 (2008), 1896 (2009), 1952 (2010), 2021 (2011), 2078 (2012), 2136 (2014), 2198 (2015) and 2293 (2016),

Condemning in the strongest terms the killing of two members of the Group of Experts who were monitoring the sanctions regime in the Kasai Central region, expressing its deepest sympathy to the families of the victims, the Governments of the United States, Chile and Sweden, as well as to the Group of Experts on the DRC and the UN Secretariat, and *further expressing concern* over the unknown status of the four Congolese nationals accompanying them,

Reiterating the need for the Government of the DRC to swiftly and fully investigate the killing of the two members of the Group of Experts and bring the perpetrators to justice, *calling upon* the Government of the DRC to cooperate with the United Nations enquiries, as well as with law enforcement investigations that may be conducted by Sweden or the United States, in accordance with DRC national legislation, and in this context, *welcoming* the Secretary-General's establishment of a UN Board of Inquiry to investigate the deaths of the two experts and his commitment that the United Nations will do everything possible to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice,

Recalling the strategic importance of the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region, and *reiterating* its call to all signatories to fulfil promptly, fully and in good faith their respective commitments under this agreement in order to address the root causes of conflict and put an end to recurring cycles of violence,



Recalling the commitments under the PSC Framework by all States of the region not to interfere in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries, and to neither tolerate nor provide assistance or support of any kind to armed groups, and *reiterating* its strong condemnation of any and all internal or external support to armed groups active in the region, including through financial, logistical or military support,

Remaining greatly concerned by the security and humanitarian situation that continues to severely affect the civilian population, *expressing deep concern* regarding the recent surge in the number of internally displaced persons in the DRC, *further reiterating* its deep concern regarding the ongoing military activities of foreign and domestic armed groups and the smuggling of Congolese natural resources, in particular gold and ivory, *stressing* the importance of neutralizing all armed groups, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and all other armed groups in the DRC, in line with resolution 2348 (2017),

Condemning the violence witnessed in the Kasai region over recent months and expressing serious concerns at alleged violations and abuses of human rights committed in the region, *reiterating its serious concern* at serious violations of international humanitarian law committed by local militia in that region, recruitment and use of children in armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, as well as attacks on the Democratic Republic of the Congo security forces and symbols of State authority, *further reiterating its serious concerns* at the recent reports of 42 mass graves and of killings of civilians by members of the security forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all of which might constitute war crimes under international law,

Reiterating the importance and urgency of prompt and transparent investigations into violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in the Kasais region, *further reiterating* its intention to closely monitor progress of the investigations into these violations, including the disproportionate use of force, which will be conducted jointly by the Government of the DRC, MONUSCO and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC, and in collaboration with the AU, as announced by the Government of the DRC, in order to bring to justice and hold accountable all those responsible, and *looking forward* to their results,

Condemning the brutal killings of more than 600 civilians in the Beni area since October 2014, *expressing deep concern* regarding the continued threat posed by armed groups, in particular the ADF, and the persistence of violence in this region, *further expressing concern* at reports of collaboration between elements of the FARDC and armed groups at a local level, in particular recent reports of individual officers of the FARDC playing a role in the insecurity in the region of Beni, *calling* for investigations in order to ensure that those responsible are held to account, *noting* the commitment expressed by the Government of the DRC in its letter of 15 June 2016 (S/2016/542),

Expressing further concern at increased impediments to humanitarian access in eastern DRC resulting from insecurity and violence, as well as continued attacks against humanitarian actors and assets, *underlining* that such acts could be the basis for designation pursuant to paragraph 2 of this resolution, and *calling upon* all parties in the conflict to respect the impartiality, independence and neutrality of humanitarian actors,

Reaffirming the importance of completing the permanent demobilization of the former 23 March Movement (M23) combatants, *stressing* the importance of ensuring that its ex-combatants do not regroup or join other armed groups, and

calling for the acceleration of the implementation of the Nairobi Declarations and of the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) of M23 ex-combatants, including by overcoming obstacles to repatriation, in coordination with the regional States concerned,

Condemning the illicit flow of weapons within and into the DRC, including their recirculation to and between armed groups, in violation of resolutions 1533 (2004), 1807 (2008), 1857 (2008), 1896 (2009), 1952 (2010), 2021 (2011), 2078 (2012), 2136 (2014), 2198 (2015) and 2293 (2016), and declaring its determination to continue to monitor closely the implementation of the arms embargo and other measures set out by its resolutions concerning the DRC,

Acknowledging in this respect the important contribution the Council-mandated arms embargo makes to countering the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons in the DRC, and in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and security sector reform,

Underlining that the transparent and effective management of its natural resources and ending illegal smuggling and trafficking of such resources are critical for the DRC's sustainable peace and security, expressing concern at the illegal exploitation and trafficking of natural resources by armed groups, and the negative impact of armed conflict on protected natural areas, commending the efforts of the DRC park rangers and others who seek to protect such areas, encouraging the Government of the DRC to continue efforts to safeguard these areas, and stressing its full respect for the sovereignty of the Government of the DRC over its natural resources and its responsibility to effectively manage these resources in this regard,

Recalling the linkage between the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife, illicit trade in such resources, and the proliferation and trafficking of arms as one of the major factors fuelling and exacerbating conflicts in the Great Lakes region, and encouraging the continuation of the regional efforts of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the governments involved against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, and stressing, in this regard, the importance of regional cooperation and deepening economic integration with special consideration for the exploitation of natural resources,

Noting the Group of Experts' findings that there have been positive efforts related to the minerals trade and traceability schemes but that gold remains a serious challenge, recalling the ICGLR's Lusaka Declaration of the Special Session to Fight Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region and its call for industry due diligence, commending the ICGLR's commitment and progress on this issue and underscoring that it is critical for regional governments and trading centres, particularly those involved in gold refining and the gold trade to intensify efforts to increase vigilance against smuggling and reduce practices that could undermine the DRC and ICGLR's regional efforts,

Noting with concern reports indicating the continued involvement of armed groups, as well as some elements of the FARDC, in the illegal minerals trade, the illegal production and trade of charcoal and wood, and wildlife poaching and trafficking,

Noting with great concern the persistence of serious human rights abuses and international humanitarian law violations against civilians in the eastern part of the DRC, including summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence and large scale recruitment and use of children committed by armed groups,

Recalling that full and timely implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement is critical in supporting the legitimacy of the transitional institutions,

stressing the crucial importance of a peaceful and credible electoral cycle, in accordance with the Constitution and respecting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, for lasting stabilisation and consolidation of constitutional democracy in the DRC, and *calling for* the immediate implementation of confidence-building measures, as per the agreement, including by putting an end to restrictions of the political space in the DRC, in particular arbitrary arrests and detention of members of the political opposition and of civil society, as well as restrictions of fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom of the press, *further stressing* the importance of the Government of the DRC and its national partners taking all necessary steps to accelerate preparations for the elections without further delays, including participation of women at all levels and to ensure an environment conducive to the peaceful and inclusive conduct of political activities, and the holding of elections, as per the 31 December agreement,

Remaining deeply concerned by reports of an increase in serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed by some members of the FARDC, the National Intelligence Agency, the Republican Guard and Congolese National Police (PNC), *urging* all parties to refrain from violence and provocation as well as to respect human rights, and *emphasizing* that the Government of the DRC must comply with the principle of proportionality in the use of force,

Recalling the importance of fighting against impunity within all ranks of its security forces, and *stressing the need* for the Government of the DRC to continue its efforts in this regard and to ensure the professionalism of its security forces,

Calling for all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations or abuses of human rights including those involving violence or abuses against children and acts of sexual and gender-based violence, to be swiftly apprehended, brought to justice and held accountable,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on women and peace and security, on children and armed conflict, and on the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, also *recalling* the conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict pertaining to the parties in armed conflict of the DRC (S/AC.51/2014/3) adopted on 18 September 2014,

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of the DRC, including the Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and the Recruitment of Children, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence, and MONUSCO, to implement the action plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by the FARDC, and to combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, including sexual violence committed by the FARDC,

Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime, including the key role that neighbouring States, as well as regional and subregional organizations, can play in this regard and *encouraging* efforts to further enhance cooperation,

Underlining the fundamental importance of timely and detailed notifications to the Committee concerning arms, ammunition and training as set out in section II of the Guidelines of the Committee,

Determining that the situation in the DRC continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Sanctions regime

1. *Decides* to renew until 1 July 2018 the measures as set out in paragraph 1 to 6 of resolution 2293 (2016), including its reaffirmations therein, and *decides* to review the provisions of the present resolution by 31 October 2017 following submission of the final report referred to in paragraph 5 of this resolution;

2. *Reaffirms* that measures described in paragraph 5 of resolution 2293 shall apply to individuals and entities as designated by the Committee for engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the DRC, as set forth in paragraph 7 of resolution 2293 (2016);

3. *Decides* that such acts include planning, directing, sponsoring or participating in attacks against MONUSCO peacekeepers or United Nations personnel, including members of the Group of Experts;

Group of experts

4. *Decides* to extend until 1 August 2018 the mandate of the Group of Experts, *expresses its intention* to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding the further extension no later than 1 July 2018, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to re-establish the Group of Experts, in consultation with the Committee, drawing, as appropriate, on the expertise of the members of the Group established pursuant to previous resolutions;

5. *Extends* to 15 August 2017 the deadline for the submission of the final report of the Group of Experts requested in paragraph 9 of resolution 2293 (2016), given the extraordinary circumstances under which the Group of Experts is currently operating and taking into account the letter dated 15 June 2017 from the Chair of the Committee to the President of the Security Council;

6. *Requests* the Group of Experts to fulfil its mandate as consolidated below, and to provide to the Council, after discussion with the Committee, a mid-term report no later than 30 December 2017, and a final report no later than 15 June 2018, as well as submit monthly updates to the Committee, except in the months where the mid-term and final reports are due;

(a) assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate, including through providing the Committee with information relevant to the potential designation of individuals and entities who may be engaging in the activities described in paragraph 2 of this resolution;

(b) gather, examine and analyse information regarding the implementation, with a focus on incidents of non-compliance, of the measures decided in this resolution;

(c) consider and recommend, where appropriate, ways of improving the capabilities of Member States, in particular those in the region, to ensure the measures imposed by this resolution are effectively implemented;

(d) gather, examine and analyse information regarding the regional and international support networks to armed groups and criminal networks in the DRC;

(e) gather, examine and analyse information regarding the supply, sale or transfer of arms, related materiel and related military assistance, including through illicit trafficking networks and the transfer of arms and related materiel to armed groups from the DRC security forces;

(f) gather, examine and analyse information regarding perpetrators of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, including those within the security forces, in the DRC,

(g) evaluate the impact of minerals traceability referred to in paragraph 21 of this resolution and continue collaboration with other forums;

(h) assist the Committee in refining and updating information on the list of individuals and entities subject to the measures imposed by this resolution, including through the provision of identifying information and additional information for the publicly-available narrative summary of reasons for listing;

7. *Expresses* its full support to the Group of Experts and calls for enhanced cooperation between all States, particularly those in the region, MONUSCO, relevant UN bodies and the Group of Experts, *encourages* further that all parties and all States ensure cooperation with the Group of Experts by individuals and entities within their jurisdiction or under their control and *reiterates* its demand that all parties and all States ensure the safety of its members and its support staff, and that all parties and all States, including the DRC and countries of the region, provide unhindered and immediate access, in particular to persons, documents and sites the Group of Experts deems relevant to the execution of its mandate;

8. *Calls upon* the Group of Experts to cooperate actively with other Panels or Groups of Experts established by the Security Council, as relevant to the implementation of its mandate;

Armed groups

9. *Strongly condemns* all armed groups operating in the region and their violations of international humanitarian law as well as other applicable international law, and abuses of human rights including attacks on the civilian population, MONUSCO peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence and large scale recruitment and use of children, and *reiterates* that those responsible will be held accountable;

10. *Demands* that the FDLR, the ADF, the LRA and all other armed groups operating in the DRC cease immediately all forms of violence and other destabilizing activities, including the exploitation of natural resources, and that their members immediately and permanently disband, lay down their arms, and liberate and demobilize all children from their ranks;

National and Regional Commitments

11. *Welcomes* the progress made to date by the Government of the DRC on ending the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, *urges* the Government of the DRC to continue the full implementation and dissemination throughout the military chain of command, including in remote areas, of its commitments made in the action plan signed with the United Nations, and for the protection of girls and boys from sexual violence, and further *calls upon* the Government of the DRC to ensure that children are not detained on charges related to association with armed groups;

12. *Welcomes* efforts made by the Government of the DRC to combat and prevent sexual violence in conflict, including progress made in the fight against impunity, and *calls on* the Government of DRC to further pursue its action plan commitments to end sexual violence and violations committed by its armed forces and continue efforts in that regard, noting that failure to do so may result in the FARDC being named again in future Secretary-General's reports on sexual violence;

13. *Stresses* the importance of the Government of the DRC actively seeking to hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country and of regional cooperation to this end, including through its ongoing cooperation with the International Criminal Court, *encourages* MONUSCO to use its existing authority to assist the government of the DRC in this regard, and *calls* on all signatories of the PSC Framework to continue to implement their commitments and cooperate fully with one another and the Government of the DRC, as well as MONUSCO to this end;

14. *Recalls* that there should be no impunity for any of those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights in the DRC and the region, and, in this regard, *urges* the DRC, all countries in the region and other concerned UN Member States to bring perpetrators to justice and hold them accountable, including those within the security sector;

15. *Calls* on the Government of the DRC to continue to enhance stockpile security, accountability and management of arms and ammunition, with the assistance of international partners, to address ongoing reports of diversion to armed groups, as necessary and requested, and to urgently implement a national weapons marking program, in particular for state-owned firearms, in line with the standards established by the Nairobi Protocol and the Regional Centre on Small Arms;

16. *Emphasizes* the primary responsibility of the Government of the DRC to reinforce State authority and governance in eastern DRC, including through effective security sector reform to allow army, police and justice sector reform, and to end impunity for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and *urges* the Government of the DRC to increase efforts in this regard, in accordance with its national commitments under the PSC Framework;

17. *Urges* the Government of the DRC as well as all relevant parties to swiftly implement the 31 December 2016 "Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement" and to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely electoral process, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution, and *recalls* all relevant paragraphs of resolution 2348 (2017);

18. *Calls upon* all States, especially those in the region, to take effective steps to ensure that there is no support, in or from their territories, for armed groups in, or travelling through, the DRC, stressing the need to address the networks of support, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, financing and recruitment of armed groups active in the DRC, as well as the need to address the ongoing collaboration between FARDC elements and armed groups at a local level, and *calls upon* all States to take steps to hold accountable, where appropriate, leaders and members of the FDLR and other armed groups residing in their countries;

Natural Resources

19. *Further encourages* the continuation of efforts by the Government of the DRC to address issues of illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources, including holding accountable those elements of the FARDC which participate in the illicit trade of natural resources, particularly gold and wildlife products;

20. *Stresses* the need to undertake further efforts to cut off financing for armed groups involved in destabilizing activities through the illicit trade of natural resources, including gold or wildlife products;

21. *Welcomes* in this regard the measures taken by the Congolese Government to implement the due diligence guidelines on the supply chain of

minerals, as defined by the Group of Experts and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), *recognizes* the Congolese Government's efforts to implement minerals traceability schemes, and *calls on* all States to assist the DRC, the ICGLR and the countries in the Great Lakes region to develop a responsible minerals trade;

22. *Welcomes* measures taken by the Governments in the region to implement the Group of Experts due diligence guidelines, including adopting the Regional Certification Mechanism of the ICGLR into their national legislation, in accordance with OECD Guidance and international practice, *requests* the extension of the certification process to other Member States in the region, and *calls on* all States, particularly those in the region, to continue to raise awareness of the due diligence guidelines, including by urging importers, processing industries, including gold refiners, and consumers of Congolese mineral products to exercise due diligence in accordance with paragraph 19 of resolution 1952 (2010);

23. *Encourages* the ICGLR and ICGLR Member States to work closely with the industry schemes currently operating in the DRC to ensure sustainability, transparency, and accountability of operations, and further *recognizes* and *encourages* the DRC government's continued support for the establishment of traceability and diligence systems to allow for the export of artisanal gold;

24. *Continues to encourage* the ICGLR to put in place the necessary technical capacity required to support Member States in their fight against the illegal exploitation of natural resources, *notes* that some ICGLR Member States have made significant progress, and *recommends* all Member States to fully implement the regional certification scheme and report mineral trade statistics in accordance with paragraph 19 of resolution 1952 (2010);

25. *Encourages* all States to continue efforts to end the illicit trade in natural resources, in particular in the gold sector, and to hold those complicit in the illicit trade accountable, as part of broader efforts to ensure that the illicit trade in natural resources is not benefiting sanctioned entities, armed groups or criminal networks, including those with members in the FARDC;

26. *Reaffirms* the provisions of paragraphs 7 to 9 of resolution 2021 (2011) and *calls upon* the DRC and States in the Great Lakes region to cooperate at the regional level to investigate and combat regional criminal networks and armed groups involved in the illegal exploitation of natural resources, including wildlife poaching and trafficking, and require their customs authorities to strengthen their control on exports and imports of mineral from the DRC;

Role of MONUSCO

27. *Recalls* the mandate of MONUSCO as outlined in resolution 2348 (2017), in particular in paragraph 30 underlining the importance of enhanced political and conflict-related analysis, including by collecting and analysing information on the criminal networks which support the armed groups, paragraph 35 (iii) regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the arms embargo, and paragraph 35 (iv) on mining activities;

28. *Encourages* timely information exchange between MONUSCO and the Group of Experts in line with paragraph 43 of resolution 2348 (2017), and *requests* MONUSCO to assist the Committee and the Group of Experts, within its capabilities;

Sanctions Committee, Reporting and Review

29. *Calls upon* all States, particularly those in the region and those in which individuals and entities designated pursuant to paragraph 2 of this resolution are based, to regularly report to the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraphs 1, 4, and 5 and recommended in paragraph 8 of resolution 1952 (2010);

30. *Emphasizes* the importance for the Committee of holding regular consultations with concerned Member States, as may be necessary, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures set forth in this resolution;

31. *Requests* the Committee to report orally, through its Chair, at least once per year to the Council, on the state of the overall work of the Committee, including alongside the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the DRC on the situation in the DRC as appropriate, and encourages the Chair to hold regular briefings for all interested Member States;

32. *Requests* the Committee to identify possible cases of non-compliance with the measures pursuant to paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of resolution 2293 (2016) and to determine the appropriate course of action on each case, and *requests* the Chair, in regular reports to the Council pursuant to paragraph 31 of this resolution, to provide progress reports on the Committee's work on this issue;

33. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict to continue sharing relevant information with the Committee in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1960 (2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998 (2011);

34. *Decides* that, when appropriate and no later than 1 July 2018, it shall review the measures set forth in this resolution, with a view to adjusting them, as appropriate, in light of the security situation in the DRC, in particular progress in security sector reform and in disarming, demobilizing, repatriating, resettling and reintegrating, as appropriate, Congolese and foreign armed groups, with a particular focus on children among them, and compliance with this resolution;

35. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.



Security Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2017
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on observance of the ceasefire regime in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 17-20 June 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) P. Illichev
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on observance of the ceasefire regime (17 June 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported eight incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: four in Damascus, three in Ladhqiyyah and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported seven violations in the following governorates: four in Dar'a, one in Damascus, one in Ladhqiyyah and one in Idlib.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusra Front and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire regime agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 1,626.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 219.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on observance of the ceasefire regime (18 June 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 12 incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: 4 in Damascus, 4 in Ladhqiyyah, 3 in Dar'a and 1 in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 violations in the following governorates: 5 in Dar'a, 4 in Damascus, 1 in Hama and 1 in Idlib.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusra Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out seven humanitarian operations: six operations in Aleppo city, delivering 1.5 tons of food products to the local population; and the delivery of 1.3 tons of food products to Sarsakiyah in Ladhqiyyah governorate.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo was 2.8 tons.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 870 people.

In total, 1,362 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 127 people.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, three ceasefire agreements have been signed with Ashrafiyah al-Masturah, Rayyan Ja'fariyat and Rabwah in Homs governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,629.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 219.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on observance of the ceasefire regime (19 June 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire: five in Damascus governorate and two in Dar'a governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported six violations: four in Damascus governorate and two in Dar'a governorate.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusra Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out four humanitarian operations: in Aleppo city, delivering 3.6 tons of drinking water to the local population; and in Qunaytirah governorate, delivering 1.3 tons of food packages to the local population.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo was 4.9 tons.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,544 people.

In total, 1,366 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 64 people.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, 88 agreements have been signed with the following populated areas: Jubayliyah, Khaz'aliyah, Rasm al-Darwish, Mazra'at al-Flih, Rabi'ah, Rasm al-Karkur, Hajj Mansur, Rasm al-Safa, Burj al-Sama, Abu Hatta, Hajib, Abu Abdah, Kafr Akkar, Tall Anbar, Sayyid, Husayniyah, Rasm al-Fariz, Bahhah, Rasm al-Asasinah, Jadin, Hali al-Hisan, Jubb Intash, Suwayrani, Sahur, Kafr Hawt, Rasm al-Bas, Zira'ah, Buwaydah al-Kabirah, Umrah, Samiriyah, Qunaytirah, Abu Jalus, Jubb al-A'amah, Baqat, Buwaydah al-Saghirah, Sarjah, Maktabah, Salihiyah, Diman, Husamiyah, Madayin Kebirah, Awlus, Jubb al-Khafi, Ayn al-Gharit, Rasm Hamad, Rabiyyat al-Hanutah, Najjarah, Muntar, Istiblat, Ayyubiyah, Huwayjat, Bunsarah, Suyur, Hamid al-Najm, Tayyibah, Hajjan, Mazra'at al-Tayyibbah, Umm Jurn, Burj al-Rumman, Judaydah, Bluzah, Magharat al-Shibli, Mu'ayzilah, Madayin Kabirah, Burj Izzawi, Qasimiyah, Sayad al-Tahtani, Khalidiyah, Zahir al-Ward, Buslah, Khalil, Shaykh Muhammad, Tark, Muhammad Jum'ah, Mazra'at Hajib, Banawi, Wadi al-Sanu, Nu'maniyah, Rasm al-Sayalah, Rasm Shawkan, Banan, Baysh, Murabba'at Sallum, Murabba'at Bishah, Khirbat al-Ma'ajir, Burj Istaba and Sarj in Aleppo governorate; and with Mu'ardis in Hama governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 1,717.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs and Qunaytirah governorates.

Over the past 24 hours, four ceasefire application forms have been signed with the leaders of Ahrar al-Sham groups operating in Aleppo governorate. The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire has increased to 223.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence on observance of the ceasefire regime (20 June 2017)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

Over the past 24 hours, the Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire in the following governorates: five in Damascus, one in Hama and one in Ladhikiyah.

The Turkish representative office has reported seven violations in the following governorates: two in Damascus, two in Dar'a, two in Homs and one in Hama.

Most of the incidents of small arms being fired indiscriminately have been reported in areas controlled by fighters of the terrorist groups Nusra Front and ISIL.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out three humanitarian operations in Aleppo city, delivering 3.6 tons of food parcels to the local population.

Humanitarian aid was provided to 1,130 people.

In total, 1,369 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

During humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours, Russian field medics have provided medical assistance to 176 people.

One United Nations humanitarian operation was carried out: the Russian airline Abakan Air parachuted a total of 18 tons of humanitarian cargo (food products) near to the city of Dayr-al-Zawr.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, no ceasefire regime agreements have been signed with populated areas.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process remains unchanged at 1,717.

Negotiations on joining the ceasefire regime have continued with armed opposition groups in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Idlib and Qunaytirah governorates.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 223.



Security Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of its 691st meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 12 June 2017 (see annex).

The Council stressed that "the overall positive evolution of the situation in Darfur is consistent with the findings of the visit undertaken by the Council to Khartoum and Darfur from 15 to 18 May 2017".

Having brought this matter to your attention, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 691st meeting, held on 12 June 2017, adopted the following decision on the situation in Darfur, Sudan, and the activities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID):

The Council,

1. **Takes note** of the joint special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (S/2017/437), which was undertaken from 5 to 17 March 2017, as well as of the introductory remarks by Ambassador Smail Chergui, the Commissioner for Peace and Security, and the presentation provided by the Joint Special Representative of UNAMID, Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo. The Council also **takes note** of the statements made by the representatives of Sudan and Egypt, in its capacity as an African member of the Security Council, as well as those of permanent members of the Security Council, namely, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America;

2. **Recalls** its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in Darfur, including communiqués PSC/PR/COMM.(DCV) and PSC/PR/COMM.(DCLXXIII), containing the decisions adopted at its 605th and 673rd meetings, held on 13 June 2016 and 29 March 2017, respectively. The Council **also recalls** Security Council resolution 2296 (2016) of 29 June 2016;

3. **Reiterates its appreciation** to the UNAMID leadership, in particular the Joint Special Representative, the Force Commander and the Police Commissioner, as well as to the Mission's personnel, for their dedication and contribution to the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Darfur. The Council **notes with appreciation** the efforts made in the implementation of the UNAMID mandate, in particular with respect to the protection of civilians. In this regard, the Council **pays tribute** to the UNAMID personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for the cause of peace in Darfur. The Council **also conveys messages of condolences** to the Government and the people of Nigeria in honour of the peacekeeper who lost his life recently in the line of duty;

4. **Commends** the Government of Sudan for its cooperation with the joint strategic review team and its constructive approach to the review of UNAMID. The Council **welcomes and notes with satisfaction** the outcome document of the 23rd meeting of the Tripartite Coordination Mechanism, held on 22 May 2017, and the spirit of cooperation that characterized the deliberations, as well as the commitment to strengthen coordination between the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations towards sustainable peace and security in Darfur. The Council **also welcomes** the report of the joint working group of 26 February 2017 on the UNAMID exit strategy, which acknowledged an improvement in the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur,

5. **Notes** the significant decrease in hostilities between the Government of Sudan and the rebel forces, as well as the declaration by the Government, the Sudan Liberation Army/Mini Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril of unilateral ceasefires. The Council **commends** the steps taken by the Government and the Darfur State Authorities towards the creation of a safe and secure

environment and **further applauds** progress made to secure the Chad-Sudan border, as a result of the political commitment of the two countries and the work of the Joint Chad/Sudan Border Monitoring Force, established in 2010;

6. **Strongly condemns** the recent incursion of armed groups into Darfur and **remains concerned** over alleged claims of use of neighbouring countries as launching grounds for such acts. The Council **further calls upon** the Government of National Unity and the rebel movements to pursue the path of direct political talks for a durable solution to the Darfur conflict;

7. **Notes** the important steps taken by the Government of Sudan to advance the Darfur political process, including the incorporation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which contains critical provisions that address the root causes of the conflict, into the Constitution. The Council **further notes** the conclusion of the national dialogue process on 10 October 2016 with the adoption of a national document, as well as the steps taken towards its implementation, including the appointment of a Prime Minister on 1 March 2017. The Council **commends** the subsequent formation of a Government of National Unity, as well as the signing, by the Government of Sudan, and by the Sudan Liberation Army/Mini Minawi and the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril, in March and August 2016, respectively, of the road map agreement proposed by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel;

8. **Stresses** that the overall positive evolution of the situation is consistent with the findings of the visit undertaken by the Council to Khartoum and Darfur from 15 to 18 May 2017. The Council **expresses its appreciation** to the Government of Sudan for the assistance availed to its delegation during the visit;

9. **Underlines** that, in spite of the significant progress made, a number of challenges remain that may impede the speedy restoration of sustainable peace, security, stability and reconciliation, as well as socioeconomic recovery. In particular, the Council **notes** that the security situation remains fragile, mainly due to the continued activities of armed militias, the proliferation of weapons and the prevalence of acts of banditry and criminality, as well as the continued occurrence of intercommunal conflicts closely linked to the root causes of the conflict. The Council **further notes, with great concern**, that such challenges exist within a context of inadequate capacity and effectiveness of the rule of law institutions. Furthermore, the Council **condemns** the recent attacks perpetrated by Darfuri armed movements in East and Northern Darfur. The Council **reiterates** the fact that only an inclusive and participatory dialogue can ensure sustainable peace, security and peaceful coexistence in Darfur;

10. **Notes with concern** that, in spite of the improvement of the security situation in the past months, a total of 2.7 million people are displaced, of whom 2.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance, and that 300,000 Sudanese refugees are located in neighbouring Chad. In this regard, the Council **appeals** to the African Union member States, and to the international community at large, to continue to extend their support to the population in need in Darfur;

11. **Underlines** the relevance of the new strategic orientation for UNAMID as proposed in the special report, namely, a two-pronged approach combining peacebuilding in the areas outside the Jebel Marra area, where there has not been fighting for an extended period of time, and peacekeeping and emergency attention in the Greater Jebel Marra area, due to the insecurity prevailing in the areas, which is preventing internally displaced persons from voluntarily returning to their homes;

12. **Endorses** the recommendations of the strategic review of UNAMID, as contained in the special report, including on issues relating to:

(a) The establishment of the Jebel Marra Task Force and the reconfiguration of UNAMID in two phases of six months each, resulting in the reduction of the strength of the military component by 44 per cent, and that of the police component by 30 per cent, the closure of 11 team sites in the first phase and the withdrawal of the military component from another 7 team sites in the second phase, it being understood that the Mission shall retain adequate and mobile quick-response capabilities to be able to respond to security challenges as they arise;

(b) The effective implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, including a comprehensive assessment of its provisions, with a view to ensuring a sustained focus on the outstanding provisions of the agreement, as well as continued support to the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel towards an all-inclusive political process linked to the national dialogue and a national constitutional reform process;

(c) The protection of civilians, with a lead role for the aforementioned Jebel Marra Task Force, working closely with the humanitarian country team, while in the rest of Darfur, efforts to protect civilians will revolve around livelihood issues and police/rule of law capacities;

(d) Intercommunal conflict, with priority given to those conflicts that have the potential to cause the highest number of casualties and derail the national political processes;

13. **Looks forward** to the full cooperation of the Government of Sudan with UNAMID, as well as with the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the effective implementation of the recommendations of the review as approved by the Council and the Security Council. In this respect, the Council **underscores** the imperative need for the Government of Sudan to ensure sustained cooperation with UNAMID in the discharge of its mandate, including the respect of UNAMID freedom of movement and the timely issuance of visas and customs clearances. The Council **notes with satisfaction** the progress made in this respect over the past months and **underscores** the need to reinforce this cooperation during this critical transitional period;

14. **Strongly urges** the Government of Sudan, working with UNAMID and the United Nations country team, to ensure that it fills the security and humanitarian vacuum that may arise out of the withdrawal of UNAMID, in order to consolidate the progress made on the ground;

15. **Stresses** the need for building the capacities of the Sudanese defence and security institutions and for the Government of Sudan to initiate the security sector reform process based on the national context, in line with the African Union Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform, endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union (Assembly/AU/Dec.472(XX)) during its 20th ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in January 2013;

16. **Expresses its deep concern** over the widespread proliferation of weapons in the areas of return of internally displaced persons and **urges** the Government of Sudan to urgently implement its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in order to disarm all armed militias, movements and civilians. Furthermore, the Council **calls upon** all relevant stakeholders to extend their support in this regard;

17. **Reiterates** its full support to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for its efforts to resume negotiations between the parties on the basis of the road map agreement, including facilitating a cessation of hostilities between the Government of Sudan and the Darfur armed movements. The Council **encourages** all parties, despite the recent flare-up of hostilities, to continue to

demonstrate readiness to engage in the quest to find agreement on the cessation of hostilities. The Council **strongly condemns** continued refusal by the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid to join the mediation process and, once again, **urges** this movement to demonstrate the required spirit of responsibility and **expresses its intention**, should the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid persist in its current attitude, to impose targeted measures against its leadership and to seek the support of the Security Council to this effect;

18. **Encourages** the Government of Sudan, with the support of the international community, to work towards finding durable solutions for the internally displaced persons in Darfur, on the basis of relevant international humanitarian and human rights law instruments, including the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention);

19. **Appeals** to the international community to provide all the necessary support to the Government of Sudan, including financial support, in its peacebuilding efforts in Darfur, in particular in socioeconomic recovery and development, the setting-up of the rule of law institutions and the establishment of the institutional and legal frameworks to address issues of land and the management of resources;

20. **Requests** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, working with international partners, to explore the possibility of convening a pledging conference to generate resources, to assist the Government of Sudan with critical post-conflict and reconstruction projects that would assist in averting a relapse into conflict in Darfur, before the end of the first year of the commencement of UNAMID withdrawal;

21. **Strongly condemns** all hostile actions and attacks against UNAMID personnel and assets, as well as against humanitarian organizations and their staff, and **urges** the Government of Sudan to spare no efforts toward's arresting and prosecuting all perpetrators of these criminal acts;

22. **Decides** to extend, for a further period of 12 months, the mandate of UNAMID, as defined in communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(LXXIX) of its 79th meeting, held on 22 June 2007, and in Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) of 31 July 2007, in line with the recommendations contained in the report of the joint strategic review. The Council **requests** the Security Council to do the same;

23. **Requests** the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations and UNAMID, to provide quarterly assessments of the implementation process of the reconfiguration of UNAMID military and police components and the evolution of the situation on the ground, in order to enable the Council to provide guidance as necessary;

24. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 21 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to the letter dated 8 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the terrorist attacks that occurred in Tehran on 7 June 2017 (S/2017/489).

In continuation of the deliberate Iranian policy of deception, contravention and manipulation, the Iranian representative once again made false and baseless accusations against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. First and foremost, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed.

Furthermore, we once again warn against Iran's belligerent activities that continue to destabilize the region and threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. The Iranian regime's unabashed support of terrorism is often carried out by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, responsible for exporting radical Iranian ideology and subsidizing terror across the globe. For over four decades, Iran has continued to export its militant, radical, violent and revolutionary ideology based on the principles of sectarianism and promoting sedition and radicalization. This expansionist and fanaticism-based policy has caused conflict, the continued suffering of people inside and outside Iran and the spread of terrorism in the region and the world.

We call upon Iran to shun its sectarian agenda and expansionist policy, refrain from hostile attacks and inflammatory false accusations against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stop its contraventions of the Charter of the United Nations and all international covenants and turn its efforts and resources towards the development and prosperity of its own people. Once Iran behaves in a responsible manner and in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will welcome dialogue and cooperation to ensure peace, security and prosperity in the region and the world.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
Permanent Representative





Security Council

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Letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I hereby request that the annexed letter dated 17 June 2017 from the President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces addressed to the President of the Security Council be circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 17 June 2017 from the President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the Syrian people at large, I write to you concerning the alarming situation in Dar'a, southern Syria. Notwithstanding the cessation of hostilities agreement and the various international efforts to establish a ceasefire in Syria, the Assad regime continues to pursue a purely military approach in an attempt to regain control over liberated territories. Most recently, the regime has embarked on a relentless campaign in Dar'a, the southern Syrian governorate that witnessed the birth of the Syrian revolution in 2011.

In its onslaught in Dar'a, the regime has been using all sorts of indiscriminate weapons and ammunition, including internationally banned napalm and barrel bombs. The ruthless bombardment has rendered much of the infrastructure, including medical facilities, dysfunctional and displaced much of the civilian population in the area. Remarkably, the Russian air force and Iranian militias are actively involved in this outrageous campaign as well. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating such that the provincial council has declared the area as "disaster-stricken", demanding that all measures be taken to stop Assad's atrocities.

This offensive constitutes not only a flagrant violation of all international resolutions and the ceasefire agreement, but also a major threat to the prospects of reaching a political solution in Syria. Should the Assad regime and its allies be allowed to pursue a military solution in Dar'a in the way that they did in Aleppo, with shameful international inaction, Assad will lack any incentive to engage in a political process towards genuine political transition and the Syrian people will completely lose faith in the political process that has been, thus far, the strategic choice of the Syrian opposition.

The National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces calls upon the Security Council to take note of this critical situation and to act immediately to compel the Assad regime and its allies to stop this offensive and engage seriously and in good faith in the political process. Furthermore, we call upon you to take every possible measure to address the humanitarian disaster incurred by the regime's onslaught, so as to ease the suffering of the civilian population. Most importantly, it is high time that the international community established a mechanism through which such violations of international resolutions and international law will no longer go unpunished. Assad and his allies must be held to account for their crimes in Syria, not only to give justice to their victims, but also to deter further violations and put an end to the military approach, making way for a genuine political process to evolve.

We count on the goodwill and efforts of the Security Council to swiftly address this critical situation and ultimately help the Syrian people to fulfil their just demands for freedom, justice and dignity.

(Signed) Riad Seif
President

National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces